

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the specification for not mentioning numerals 127, 128, 129, 129', 140-143, 132-135, 310, 311, 311', 330, 330', 333, 335, 360, 360', 370, and 380. As the Examiner will note, the specification has been amended to refer to the numerals set forth in the drawings. The amendments are believed to comply with the Examiner's requirements.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out a few discrepancies with regard to the claims. As the Examiner will note, positive antecedent basis has been added to the elements identified in paragraph 2a as set forth in page 2 of the Examiner's Office Action. With regard to claims 5 and 16, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to page 14, lines 1-19 of the specification. As the Examiner will note, the segments 30 are identified as being not positively connected to the sliding members 20 and 20' but merely in abutting engagement whereby the wires springs 40' will cause the segments 30 to follow a radial outward movement as permitted during opening rotation of the spindle 60 by engagement of the surface portions 34 with the surface portion 29 that now increase gradually in diametric dimension.

Claims 5 and 16 have been amended to delete "non-positively" and insert -- not positively --. The amendments to claims 5 and 16 are consistent with the specification and are not vague and indefinite. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

**ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 1-27 as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 112. In view of the amendments as set forth hereinabove, the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance. An early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

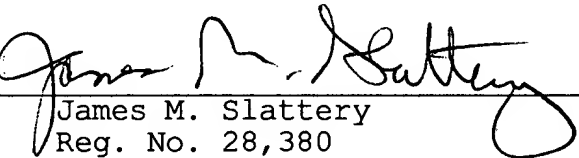
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Mr. James M. Slattery at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-2325 for any additional fees required under 37 CFR \$1.16 or under \$1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
James M. Slattery  
Reg. No. 28,380

JMS:rdl

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000